

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:ETEL, MARR, NATO

SUBJECT: US USE OF NATO SATELLITES

REF: USNATO 6400 DTG 241325Z NOV 75

1. SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE PROPOSES THE LOAN OF THE NATO
IIIB SATELLITE TO THE US FOR ITS EXCLUSIVE USE OVER THE
EASTERN PACIFIC (EASTPAC). END SUMMARY.

2. BACKGROUND:

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A. ON MAY 20, 1975, TWO US DSCS II SATELLITES FAILED TO

ACHIEVE ORBIT BECAUSE OF A TRANSFER STAGE BOOSTER FAILURE. ONE OF THESE SATELLITES WAS INTENDED TO REPLACE THE NATO IIB SATELLITE OVER EASTPAC. THE US THEN ENTERED INTO DISCUSSIONS WITH NATO FROM WHICH IT WAS DETERMINED THAT THE NATO IIIA SATELLITE MIGHT BE POSITIONED OVER EASTPAC FOR US USE AFTER LAUNCH AND COMPLETION OF NATO-TESTING. ONE CONDITION FOR THIS POSITIONING WAS THAT THE US WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPLY SATCOM CAPACITY TO NATO IN THE US DSCS ATLANTIC SATELLITE. THE US WAS STAFFING SUCH A PROPOSAL FOR NJCEC CONSIDERATION WHEN THE US DSCS ATLANTIC SATELLITE ANTENNA PLATFORM SPUN UP. ALTHOUGH THE ANTENNA PLATFORM HAS SINCE BEEN DESPUN, IT OCCASIONALLY LOSES

EARTH LOCK.

B. BECAUSE THE US WAS NO LONGER ABLE TO PROVIDE ASSURED SATELLITE SERVICE TO NATO FROM THE DSCS II ATLANTIC SATELLITE, NATO REQUESTED THAT THE NATO IIB SATELLITE BE RETURNED TO THE ATLANTIC FOR NATO USE. THE NATO IIB SATELLITE WAS RETURNED AND IT ARRIVED ON STATION OCTOBER 16, 1975.

C. THE NEXT TWO DSCS II SATELLITES ARE SCHEDULED FOR DUAL LAUNCHING IN EARLY 1977. A SUBSEQUENT DSCS II DUAL LAUNCHING IS SCHEDULED FOR LATE 1977. ASSUMING SUCCESSFUL LAUNCHINGS, ORBITAL POSITIONINGS AND COMMUNICATION CHECKOUTS OF THE FOUR FOLLOW-ON DSCS II SATELLITES, THE US REQUIREMENT FOR WORLD-WIDE SATCOM COVERAGE COULD BE SATISFIED IN LATE 1977.

D. THE US HAS CONDUCTED AN ANALYSIS OF COURSES OF ACTION WHICH WOULD ENABLE THE US TO OVERCOME ITS NEAR TERM SATCOM DEFICIENCIES AND HAS CONCLUDED THAT THE USE OF NATO SATELLITES IS THE MOST VIABLE NEAR TERM ALTERNATIVE AVAILABLE.

3. THE FOLLOWING ASSUMPTIONS WERE MADE WITH RESPECT TO USE OF NATO SATELLITES:

A. THAT THE NATO IIIA SATELLITE WOULD BE LAUNCHED
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SUCCESSFULLY, ORBITALLY POSITIONED OVER THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, TESTED, CHECKED OUT AND TURNED OVER FOR NATO OPERATIONAL USE IN THE EARLY TO MID-1976 TIME FRAME.

B. THAT THE NATO IIIB SATELLITE WOULD BE SIMILARLY SUCCESSFUL IN THE LATE SUMMER/FALL 1976 TIME FRAME.

C. THAT SHOULD ANY ANOMALIES BE DISCOVERED IN THE NATO

IIIA SATELLITE, THEY WOULD BE CORRECTED, AS CONSIDERED NECESSARY, IN THE NATO IIIB SATELLITE PRIOR TO ITS LAUNCH.

D. THAT THE NATO IIIB SATELLITE WOULD BE LAUNCHED WITHOUT MODIFICATIONS OR CHANGES BEING REQUESTED BY THE US.

E. THAT AN ESTIMATED AUGUST 1976 LAUNCH DATE OF THE SATELLITE FOR US USE, AS DIFFERENTIATED FROM THE NATO CURRENTLY PLANNED LAUNCH DATE OF DECEMBER 1977, IS BASED PRIMARILY ON THE MANUFACTURER'S INTENDED COMPLETION DATE.

F. THAT ANY CHARGES ACCRUED AS A RESULT OF SUCH EARLIER THAN PLANNED NATO LAUNCHING WOULD NOT BE LARGE AND THAT

THEY WOULD BE KNOWN, AGREED TO AND ASSUMED BY THE US PRIOR TO CONTRACTING FOR SUCH LAUNCHING.

4. ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION FOLLOWS:

A. THE ARRANGEMENT BEST SATISFIES THE ESSENTIAL US AND NATO SATCOM REQUIREMENTS AND MAKES THE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF THE SATELLITES AVAILABLE IN THE 1976-1977 TIME FRAME.

B. IN EFFECT, A SPARE IN-ORBIT SATELLITE IS AVAILABLE TO NATO BECAUSE NATO WILL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO MAKE IMMEDIATE RECALL OF THE NATO IIIB SATELLITE IN THE EVENT OF FAILURE OR DEGRADATION RESULTING IN THE UNAVAILABILITY OF THE NATO IIIA SATELLITE.

C. THE SPARE CAPACITY OF THE CURRENTLY OPERATIONAL DSCS II ATLANTIC SATELLITE IS AVAILABLE TO NATO NOW AND, AS LONG AS IT REMAINS OPERATIONAL, WILL CONTINUE TO BE AVAILABLE.

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ABLE FOR SATELLITE CONTINGENCY USE BY NATO THROUGH THE PERIOD THAT THE US WOULD BORROW THE NATO IIIB SATELLITE. SIMILARLY, THE SPARE CAPACITY OF THE REPLACEMENT DSCS II ATLANTIC SATELLITE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BE AVAILABLE EARLY IN 1977, WILL ALSO BE AVAILABLE FOR SATELLITE CONTINGENCY USE BY NATO.

D. THE SEPARATION BETWEEN LAUNCH DATES OF THE NATO IIIA AND NATO IIIB SATELLITES SHOULD ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR ANOMALIES TO BE DETECTED IN THE NATO IIIA SATELLITE.

E. BASED ON THE FACT THAT THE US AND NATO SATCOM PROGRAMS ARE COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS, THE NATO LAUNCH CHARGES WILL BE THE SAME AS US DOD LAUNCH CHARGES. BECAUSE OF THIS, NATO WILL ACCRUE A SUBSTANTIAL SAVINGS FOR THE NATO

SATCOM III PROGRAM. FURTHER, SINCE THE US WILL DERIVE BENEFITS THROUGH USE OF THE NATO SATELLITES, THERE WILL BE NO INCREASE IN ON ORBIT SUPPORT COSTS FOR MAINTAINING THE NATO SATELLITES ON STATION.

F. THERE IS EVIDENCE OF A MAJOR NATO CONTRIBUTION TO RATIONALIZATION (MUTUAL SUPPORT) OF NATO/NATIONAL SATCOM SYSTEMS.

5. IN THE SPIRIT OF CONTINUING THE US/NATO MUTUAL SATCOM COOPERATION DEMONSTRATED THROUGH INTEROPERATIONS OF THE US DSCS II AND NATO SATCOM II SYSTEMS DURING THE PAST TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS, AND THAT WHICH IS ANTICIPATED AND BEING NEGOTIATED FOR THE POST-1975 PERIOD, THE US PROPOSES:

A. THAT NATO LAUNCH THE NATO IIIB SATELLITE ABOUT AUGUST 1976, COMPLETE THE NATO TESTS AND COMMUNICATION CHECKOUTS OVER THE ATLANTIC, THEN TURN THE SATELLITE OVER TO THE US FOR POSITIONING AT 135 DEGREES WEST LONGITUDE FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OVER EASTPAC BY THE US.

B. THAT NATO RETAIN OWNERSHIP AND ASSUME ALL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH NATO IIIB.

C. THAT NATO, AS OWNER OF THE NATO IIIB SATELLITE:

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-- (1) RETAIN CONTROL OVER THE POSITION, RATE OF MOVEMENT, CONFIGURATION AND STATION KEEPING PROCEDURES FOR THE SATELLITE HEALTH AND STATUS FROM SAMSO.

-- (2) BE RESPONSIBLE FOR COSTS RESULTING FROM SATELLITE ANOMALY INVESTIGATION IN THE NATO IIIA AND NATO IIIB SATELLITES, IF REQUIRED, AND CORRECTION THERETO IN THE NATO IIIB SATELLITE.

D. THAT DURING THE PERIOD OF US EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE NATO IIIB SATELLITE, THE US WILL REPORT ANY OBSERVED ANOMALIES IN THE SATELLITE PERFORMANCE TO NATO.

E. THAT AS A RESULT OF THIS TRULY COOPERATIVE SATCOM PROGRAM, THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO CONTINUE CHARGING NATO THE SAME LAUNCH CHARGES AS A U.S. GOVERNMENT PROGRAM INCURS AND NOT TO ESCALATE THESE CHARGES AS RECENTLY DIRECTED BY GAO. (THE INITIAL CHARGE FOR R&D IS STILL CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE IN THAT SUCH A CHARGE IS BORNE BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN SUPPORT OF SATELLITE DEVELOPMENT.)

F. THAT THE US AND NATO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN COOPERATIVE SATELLITE PROGRAMS SO THAT FUTURE SATELLITE PROGRAM COSTS CAN BE MINIMIZED BY SHARING AVAILABLE OPERATIONAL SATELLITES, E.G., DSCS III CAN SUPPORT NATO REQUIREMENTS DURING THE GAP BETWEEN NATO III AND NATO IV. THIS FEATURE OF THE PROPOSAL CAN BE ARRANGED UNDER TERMS WHICH ARE AGREEABLE TO BOTH US AND NATO.

6. TO PROVIDE A MEANINGFUL TIMETABLE FOR THE US USE OF THE NATO IIIB SATELLITE, IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS BE TAKEN IN THE TIME FRAMES INDICATED:

A. JANUARY 1976. CIRCULATE THE US PROPOSAL AMONG AND OBTAIN CONCURRENCE FROM NJCEC MEMBERS.

B. FEBRUARY 1976. OBTAIN NATIONS' TENTATIVE APPROVAL.

C. APRIL 1976. OBTAIN NJCEC FINAL APPROVAL UPON DETERMINATION THAT THE NATO IIIA SATELLITE OPERATES TO THE CONFIDENTIAL

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